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MADERA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Faces Mandatory 10 Year Prison Sentence

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that WILLIAM EDWARD HUGHES, 31, of Madera, California pleaded guilty before the Honorable Oliver W. Wanger to one count of possession of visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, HUGHES was convicted on August 4, 2003 for possession of child pornography in the California Superior Court in Madera County. That offense was a misdemeanor for which HUGHES was sentenced to 180 days in jail and three years of probation. This prior conviction subjects the defendant to a mandatory minimum federal prison term of 10 years, a potential lifetime term of supervised release, and up to a maximum of 20 years in federal prison.

The case was the result of an investigation that began with a referral from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Cyber Tipline. The investigation was conducted jointly by investigators with the Fresno Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Fresno, and the California Department of Justice Sexual Predator Apprehension Team in Fresno.

HUGHES will be sentenced on June 13, 2006, at 9:00 a.m.

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